

B. Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) An extract of *Cryptomeria japonica* D. Don buds obtained by a first solid/liquid extraction step, followed by a second solid/liquid separation step, then a third liquid phase retrieval step.
2. (previously presented) An extract as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solid/liquid extraction step is performed by maceration, remaceration, digestion, dynamic maceration, fluid bed extraction, microwave-assisted extraction, ultrasound-assisted extraction, countercurrent extraction, percolation, repercolation, leaching, low-pressure extraction, diafiltration, supercritical fluid extraction or solid-liquid extraction with continuous reflow (soxhlet).
3. (previously presented) An extract as claimed in claim 1, wherein a bud/solvent ratio in the solid/liquid extraction step is between 1/99 and 80/20 by weight.
4. (currently amended) An extract as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solid/liquid extraction step is performed at a temperature between 3°C and 100°C, ~~preferably between 20°C and 60°C~~.
5. (previously presented) An extract as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solid/liquid separation step is performed by draining, pressing, spin drying, centrifugation or filtration.
6. (previously presented) An extract as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solid/liquid separation step is followed by at least one clarification step.
7. (previously presented) An extract as claimed in claim 1, wherein the solid/liquid separation step is followed by a concentration step.

8. (previously presented) An extract as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one clarification step is followed by a sterilizing 0.22- μ m filtration step.

9. (previously presented) An extract as claimed in claim 1, wherein the extract is dried after the solid/liquid separation step by lyophilization, atomization or vacuum evaporation.

10. (previously presented) An extract as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the extract is in liquid form, it has a dry matter content between 1 and 100 g/kg.

11. (previously presented) An extract as claimed in claim 1, wherein when the extract is in dry form, it has a dry matter content between 10 and 1000 g/kg.

12. (currently amended) A method for stimulating synthesis of essential components of the extracellular matrix through dermis cells comprising topically applying an extract as claimed in claim 1 to said dermis cells the skin of an individual in need of stimulation of the essential components of the extracellular matrix.

13. (currently amended) A method for cytoprotection of the skin of an individual in need thereof comprising topically applying an extract as claimed in claim 1 to said skin.

14. (currently amended) A method for stimulating epidermal cell metabolism comprising topically applying an extract as claimed in claim 1 to said epidermal cells the skin of an individual in need of stimulation of epidermal cell metabolism.

15. (original) A cosmetic composition containing an extract of *Cryptomeria japonica* buds as claimed in claim 1.

16. (currently amended) A composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the extract represents between 0.1% and 10% of the composition by weight, ~~preferably between 0.3% and 3%~~.

17. (currently amended) A method for moisturizing, normalizing and stimulating the complexion[['s]] ~~radiance~~ of an individual in need thereof comprising topically applying the composition of claim 15 to the skin of the individual.

18. (previously presented) An extract as claimed in claim 7, wherein the concentration step is followed by a sterilizing 0.22- μ m filtration step.

19. (previously presented) An extract according to claim 1 obtained by:

- (1) extracting *Cryptomeria japonica D. Don* buds with water, alcohol or a polyol to provide a solid phase and a liquid phase;
- (2) separating said solid phase and liquid phase; and
- (3) clarifying said liquid phase.

20. (previously presented) A process for preparing an extract of *Cryptomeria japonica D. Don* buds, comprising a first solid/liquid extraction step, followed by a second solid/liquid separation step, followed by a third liquid phase retrieval step.

21. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein:

the first step comprises extracting *Cryptomeria japonica D. Don* buds with water, alcohol or a polyol to provide a solid phase and a liquid phase;
the second step comprises separating said solid phase from said liquid phase; and
the third step comprises clarifying said liquid phase.

22. (new) The extract of claim 4, wherein the solid/liquid extraction step is performed at a temperature between 20°C and 60°C.

23. (new) The composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the extract represents between 0.3% and 3% of the composition by weight.